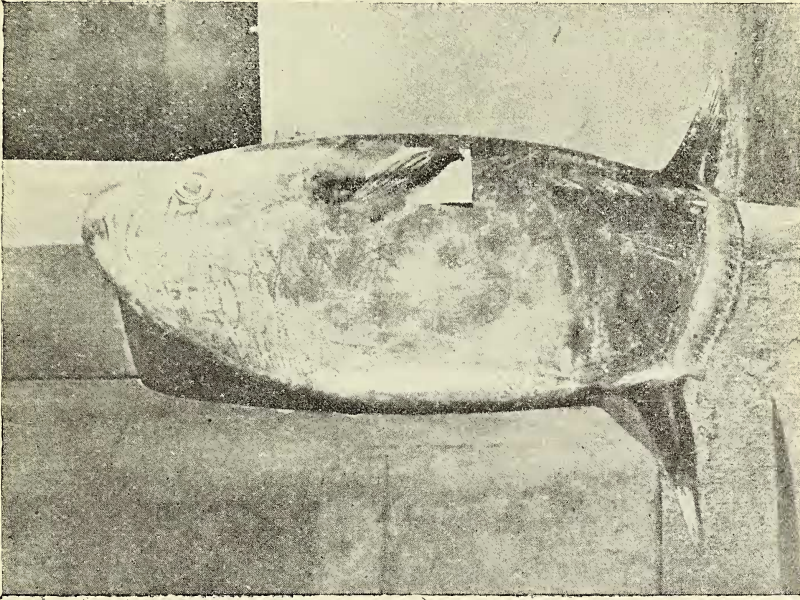


This is a new record of this oceanic fish in this coastal area. It is probable that the fish had followed one of the ocean-going vessels



that frequently call at Beypore port and then drifted towards the shore. The specimen is kept in the museum of the Marine Biological Station, West Hill.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL STATION,
WEST HILL, MALABAR,
February 24, 1956.

P. I. CHACKO
M. J. MATHEW

[Occurrence of members of the family Mollidae along the coast of India is rare. From Bombay, a specimen of *Masturus lanceolatus* was recorded for the first time by Dr. Kulkarni (*JBNHS*, 51: 940, 1953). The present record of the Sun fish, *Ranzania truncata*, from the Malabar Coast near Beypore, appears to be the second record of its occurrence on the West Coast of India.—Eds.]

25. OCCURRENCE OF THE COPEPOD PARASITE *LERNEA ELEGANS* ON *OPHICEPHALUS STRIATUS* FISH FRY IN MYSORE

A bath of 580 *Ophicephalus striatus* fish fry of 1" size were collected on 7-6-1949 in the Palar River below the Ramasagara tank. The fry were transferred to a nursery pond in the Markandeya Fish Farm in Kolar district. On 11-7-1949, 100 fish fry from this batch were collected to record their growth in length and weight. While

doing so, it was noticed that over 60% of the fish fry were infested with external parasites in the region of the pectoral, pelvic and dorsal fins. On dislodging these parasites, it was noticed that the parasites had firmly fixed themselves in the flesh of the fish with the help of an anchor-like appendage. The anchor was fleshy in colour while the body of the parasite was dark, and near the free end there were two bags containing eggs of the parasite. On the body of the parasite, there were green filamentous growths which were later identified as colonies of *Vorticella*. Mortality due to this parasitic infestation was negligible. The parasites were later identified as copepod parasites belonging to the species *Lerneae elegans*. The infestation of the parasite was gradually reduced by plucking out at each reading, so much so that by the time the fish had grown to 3.5" the parasites were completely eliminated.

Of the thousands of fish fingerlings handled by us, both in Kolar and other districts, this is the only record of the occurrence of copepod parasites on fish fingerlings in Mysore State.

FISHERIES SECTION,

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY,
GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE, BANGALORE,

H. D. R. IYENGAR
K. VENKATESH

November 18, 1955.

26. BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF SUBMERGED AQUATIC
VEGETATION IN POND FISHERIES BY CULTURE OF
'KATLI' [*BARBUS (LISSOCHILUS) HEXAGONOLEPIS*],
A HILL STREAM SPECIES OF FISH OF DARJEE-
LING DISTRICT (WEST BENGAL)

In the management of pond fisheries, one of the major problems which stands in the way of the fish farmers of West Bengal is the effective eradication of unwanted water weeds and their control. Up till now, no chemical or mechanical methods are known which can be effectively used for the purpose. Series of investigations were carried out in the laboratory as well as in the field stations of the Directorate with regard to the use of chemicals like sodium arsenite, copper sulphate, nigrosine, 2-4-D etc. for the purpose, but no suitable solution to the problem could be found, in view of the fact that the effective chemicals were either too expensive or too poisonous in character, which restricted their use. Various forms of mechanical contrivances were also tried but, in view of tender nature of the vegetation, no material success could also be achieved in this respect.

The F. A. O. Expert, who was assigned for advising the State Government in the matter of inland fisheries development, suggested liberation of exotic fish like *Tilapia mossambica* and *Puntius javanicus* in West Bengal water for the purpose. But experiments carried out in different laboratories of India on the food and feeding habits of *Tilapia mossambica* indicate that, at certain stages, it may be inimical to the fry of Indian major carps and, as such, introduction of this